

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

A fixing apparatus for fixing a toner image on a transfer sheet, comprising:

a fixing roller comprising

a cylindrical light-transmitting base body, made of a glass material capable of transmitting a heat ray;

a light-transmitting elastic layer including

a first light-transmitting elastic layer provided on an outer periphery of said light-transmitting base body and made of a material having a hardness A1, and

a second light-transmitting elastic layer provided on an outer periphery of said first light-transmitting elastic layer and made of a material having a hardness A2, wherein the hardness A1 is greater than the hardness A2; and

a heat ray absorbing layer provided on an outer periphery of said light-transmitting elastic layer and to absorb said heat ray.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Original)

The fixing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the material of at least one of the first light-transmitting elastic layer and the second light-transmitting elastic layer is a silicone rubber.

Claim 4 (Original)

The fixing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a thickness T1 of the first light-transmitting elastic layer is not larger than a thickness T2 of the second light-transmitting elastic layer.

Claim 5 (Original)

The fixing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a bearing to support the fixing roller rotatably, said bearing provided on an outer periphery of said light-transmitting elastic layer or an outer periphery of said heat ray absorbing layer.

Claim 6 (Original)

The fixing apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

a heat insulating member to intercepting heat transmission from said light-transmitting elastic layer or said heat ray absorbing layer to said bearing, wherein said heat insulating member is provided on an outer periphery of said light-transmitting elastic layer or an outer periphery of said heat ray absorbing layer and said bearing is provided on an outer periphery of said heat insulating member.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)

The fixing apparatus of claim 6, wherein a material of said ~~bearing~~ heat insulating member has a heat deformation temperature higher than 200°C under a load of 18.6 Kg/cm².